

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed February 9, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-36 were last presented for examination. Claims 1-15 and 31-36 were allowed, claims 16, 20, 22, 25 and 26 were rejected and claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24 and 27-30 were objected to in the outstanding Office Action. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 16, 20 and 26 have been amended. Claims 19, 21-24, 27 and 28 have been canceled and claims 37-40 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-18, 20, 25, 26 and 29-40 will be pending in this application. Of these thirty-four (34) claims, nine (9) claims (claims 1, 10, 16, 20, 26, 31, 34, 37 and 39) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter & New Claims

3. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-15 and 31-36 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 1-15 include independent claims 1 and 10 and their respective dependent claims 2-9 and 11-15. Claims 31-36 include independent claims 31 and 34 and their respective dependent claims 32-33 and 35-36.

4. The Examiner objected to claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24 and 27-30. Claims 17-19 depend from rejected base claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to include the recitations of objected claim 19 and claim 19 has been canceled. Since there are no intervening claims, amended claim 16 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 17 and 18 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

5. Claims 21, 23 and 24 depend from rejected base claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 23, and claim 23 has been canceled. Since there are no intervening claims, amended claim 20 is in condition for allowance. Because

the feature added to claim 20 conflicts with the recitations of claims 21, 22 and 24, these dependent claims have also been canceled. Accordingly, amended claim 20 and dependent claim 25 are now in condition for allowance.

6. Applicants added new claim 37 which includes the recitations of rejected independent claim 20 and objected claim 21. Since there were no intervening claims between claims 20 and 21, claim 37 is in condition for allowance. Applicants added new claim 38 which includes the same recitations as claim 25, and which depends from new independent claim 37. Claim 38 is also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 37.

7. Applicants added new claim 39 which includes the recitations of rejected independent claim 20 and objected claim 24. Since there were no intervening claims between claims 20 and 24, claim 39 is in condition for allowance. Applicants added new claim 40 which includes the same recitations as claim 25, and which depends from new independent claim 39. Claim 40 is also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 39.

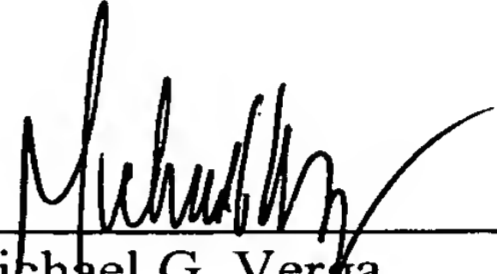
8. Rejected independent claim 26 has been amended to include the recitations of claims 27 and 28, and claims 27 and 28 have been canceled. Since there are no intervening claims between either claim 27 and base claim 26 nor claim 28 and base claim 26, amended claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 29 and 30 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

9. Applicants have not addressed the propriety of the rejections set out in the outstanding office action, and reserve the right to pursue in a divisional application the claims pending in this application prior to entry of this paper.

Conclusion

10. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 30, 2005